



Administrative Office of the Courts

P.O. Box 4820, Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781 TTY: (207) 822-0701

Mary Ann Lynch
Government & Media Counsel
P.O. Box 4820
Portland, Maine 04112-4820

Tel: (207) 592-5940
mary.ann.lynch@courts.maine.gov

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Supreme Judicial Court to Hold Court at High Schools in Lincoln, Presque Isle and Yarmouth – Fall 2014

Portland, Maine-- Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley today announced the Court's 2014 schedule for visiting Maine high schools this fall. On Wednesday, October 8, 2014, beginning at 9:10 a.m., the Court will hear three cases at Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln, at the invitation of State Senator Emily Cain. A second case will be heard at 9:55 a.m., and the third case at 10:40 a.m.

On Thursday, October 9, 2014, beginning at 9:00 a.m., the Court will hear three appeals at Yarmouth High School, at the invitation of State Senator Dick Woodbury. A second appeal will be heard at 9:45 and the third case will follow at 10:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, October 28, 2014, starting at 9:00 a.m., the Court will be at Presque Isle High School, at the invitation of Representative Alex Willette. The next two appeals will begin at 9:50 and 10:40 a.m. that morning. The Presque Isle scheduled was moved to later in the month because students will be out on the potato harvest break earlier in the month.

Since 2005, the Court has held oral arguments in actual appellate cases in high schools around the state. Last year, court was held at Orono and Cape Elizabeth High Schools and Nokomis High School in Newport. These trips are arranged at the invitation of local legislators. Since 2005, the Supreme Court has visited 26 schools and heard over 80 appellate cases before Maine high school students and faculty. In each school, the gymnasium or auditorium is turned into a real courtroom for the morning so that the students can observe the appellate process. Students receive copies of the parties' legal briefs in advance of the oral arguments, and after the oral arguments the lawyers stay to answer questions from students. When the cases are decided, the schools receive a link to the decision to provide to the students.

Chief Justice Leigh Saufley said, "Once again, we are excited to have the opportunity to hold appellate arguments at three Maine high schools. Over the years, the Court has traveled from Biddeford to Fort Kent and from Fryeburg to Eastport, with many stops in between our large and beautiful state. Creating a real courtroom in a high school takes great effort on the part of the faculty and school staff. We appreciate the work that is involved to bring this particular, real life civics lesson to Maine high school students. Of course, the high point for the Court is

the chance to meet and talk with Maine students. We continue to be impressed each year with the quality and level of interest that Maine students bring to these cases”

The Chief Justice also observed that, “Presque Isle High School trip will be very special as Associate Justice Warren Silver graduated from Presque Isle High School in 1966, and our host, Rep. Alex Willette just graduated from the University of Maine School of Law this year, is now studying for the bar exam, and is a 2007 Presque Isle High school graduate.”

The press is welcome to attend. The case schedule and briefs will be posted on the Court web site, when available, at:

http://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml

Live audio streaming of these cases, and all other Supreme Judicial Court oral arguments is available at:

http://www.courts.maine.gov/maine_courts/supreme/oral_arguments.shtml

For press interviews, video recording, or photographs of the Court, while the court is at the schools, please contact Mary Ann Lynch, at the above e-mail by October 3, 2014, to schedule an interview. Photographs and video of students are subject to the rules of the high school, and the press is requested to contact school officials directly.